4th avant conference

trends in interdisciplinary studies

October 24-26, 2019 Porto, Portugal

CONFERENCE FOLDER

CONTENTS

- 3 2019 Special focus
- 4 Special sections
- 10 Organizers
- 11 Organizing Committee
- 12 Invited Speakers
- 22 Mind, Language and Action Group
- 24 Project Avant

2019 SPECIAL FOCUS FRAGMENTATION OF COGNITION: THE TROUBLE WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLANATIONS

This year's conference is devoted to the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of research on cognition, but also within science in general, and invites reflections on the phenomenon of interdisciplinarity as such. Indeed, the term "interdisciplinarity" has become a buzzword and stands in serious danger of being overused, and thus of losing its explanatory power. In part, this is because it is frequently assumed that interdisciplinary research is inherently "more valuable" than traditional, purely disciplinary research; hence the term is strategically used to garner the attention of researchers, students, and grant agencies. To counter such almost reflex-like endorsement, we seek a renewed understanding of what the "added value" of interdisciplinarity might be, in particular with respect to research in the cognitive sciences, what obstacles and difficulties it faces, and how those might be overcome (both in theory and practice). Importantly, we are interested in understanding whether interdisciplinary approaches increase or decrease the current fragmentation of cognitive sciences. The questions we hope to tackle include:

(1) What kind of interdisciplinarity (e.g., theoretical, methodological, or institutional) is at stake in a given domain of inquiry, and what difficulties does it face?

(2) What are the specific challenges and difficulties for developing successful explanatory practices in interdisciplinary research?

(3) Is integration (e.g., theoretical, explanatory, methodological, or institutional) a desirable goal or outcome of interdisciplinary research? To what extent should good interdisciplinary research have a disruptive or destabilizing effect on existing disciplinary boundaries and traditions?

(4) Should interdisciplinary research be pluralistic, and if so, to what extent (if any) is it different from multi- or transdisciplinary research?

(5) What is the role of participants from fields other than science (e.g., artists, industry, and corporate entities, public-private partnerships), and how do they impact the conduct of interdisciplinary research?

(6) Why are current interdisciplinary scientific practices and methods mostly fragmented?

(7) What kinds of problems does the interdisciplinary individuation (and stabilization) of objects of interest face or phenomena?

(8) What are the interdisciplinary consequences of discipline-specific data production, curation, and sharing?

(9) What kind of interdisciplinary character does current research on cognition have?

(10) To what extent are the specific problems faced by research in cognitive sciences typical of interdisciplinary research in general?

SPECIAL SECTIONS

— TRENDS 2019 —

MULTI-SCALAR TEMPORALITIES (MSTS): THE CASE OF LANGUAGING. WORKSHOP

FEMINIST THEORY AND SCIENCE: THE INSPIRING AND TANGLED RELATIONSHIP." SPECIAL SESSION ON FEMINISMS IN SCIENCE

THE EXPLANATORY POWER OF PREDICTIVE PROCESSING AND ITS LIMITS. SPECIAL SESSION ON PREDICTIVE PROCESSING

REPRESENTATIONALISM AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. SPECIAL SESSION ON PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHIATRY

THE EXPLANATORY POWER OF PREDICTIVE PROCESSING AND ITS LIMITS. SPECIAL SESSION ON PREDICTIVE PROCESSING

"MULTI-SCALAR TEMPORALITIES (MSTS): THE CASE OF LANGUAGING" WORKSHOP

Multi-scalar temporalities (MSTs) arise from evolutionary history: cellular sub-systems, multi-cellular parts, organisms, lineages and ecosystems all evolved ways of coping with irregular environments and, at once, changing the adjacent possible (Kaufmann, 2000). In humans, new dimensions of complexity arose with factors such as neoteny, the emergence of childhood and adolescence, how these are affected by culture and, thus, artifacts, institutions and ways of languaging. MSTs matter as we perform alone and together while linking activity with physical wordings. Humans are capable of what some call mental time-travel or, in an alternative view, ranging in time (Cowley& Steffensen, 2015) by bringing the past to the present and projecting possible, and impossible, futures.

Using Madsen's (2017) sketch of how MSTs influence persons, we focus on uniquely human cognition. Social situations enable parties to track how those who are copresent show concerns. At times, they trigger recall or anticipate as they co-operate and, indeed, compete. The workshop introduces multi-scalar temporalities, traces culturally-attuned agency to evolutionary and ontogenetic foundations, and pursues how social subjectivity plays out in human living and languaging. Having presented MSTs, evolution, and development, we focus on how multi-scalar temporal cognition appears in everyday languaging. The workshop concludes with open discussion.

"FEMINIST THEORY AND SCIENCE: THE INSPIRING AND TANGLED RELATIONSHIP" SPECIAL SESSION ON FEMINISMS IN SCIENCE

Feminist thought as a vehicle of interdisciplinarity in the reflection on science.

Feminist approaches as an important factor in reshaping the contemporary philosophy, sociology, and the history of science.

Have feminisms changed science due to their creative subversive power? How?

How particular feminist theories have transformed scientific disciplines?

The impact of feminist approaches on research priorities and methodology.

Feminist perspectives in science: their specificity and consequences.

Feminist thought and cognitive turns in the reflection on science.

The cognitive perspective of feminist theories of science: traditions to be developed and modes to be constructively modified.

"THE EXPLANATORY POWER OF PREDICTIVE PROCESSING AND ITS LIMITS" SPECIAL SESSION ON PREDICTIVE PROCESSING

The main goal of this session is to discuss the development and explanatory possibilities of the predictive processing framework for understanding cognition and the mind.

Predictive processing, explanatory pluralism, and the unity of cognitive science.

Predictive processing and the possibility of personal-level explanations.

The representational/anti-representational approach to predictive processing.

Bayesian predictive mind and its normative implications.

Predictive processing and 4E cognitive science.

The social dimension of predictive processing.

The mechanistic implementation of predictive processing.

Predictive processing and the free-energy principle.

"REPRESENTATIONALISM AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY" SPECIAL SESSION ON PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHIATRY

What kind of psychopathologies can be explained in an antirepresentational way?

What are representational explanations of mental disorders?

Antirepresentational approaches to psychiatry within the 4E paradigm.

Is representationalism compatible with phenomenological psychiatry?

Antirepresentational and representational predictive processing/predictive coding models of mental disorders.

Is there an integrative (both representational and antirepresentational) explanation of psychopathologies possible?

"LABORATORY OF DANCE" SPECIAL SESSION ON RESEARCH ON DANCE

This symposium brings together researchers and practitioners pursing dance-science enquiries. We are welcoming submissions in the format of presentations, interactions, demonstration, or performances (including films).

Embodied, embedded, extended, and enactive cognition in movement practices.

Social and cultural studies on dance practice.

Interaction, intersubjectivity and shared cognition in dance and performance arts

Neural correlates of dance.

Embodied creativity, creativity through action, co-creativity in performance arts.

Somatic practices and cognition.

Physical intelligence and the intelligent body.

Practice as research, performance as research and practice research.

Cross-disciplinary endeavours: art-science-humanities-technology collaborations.

ORGANIZERS

TRENDS 2019



Mind, Language and Action Group / Institute of Philosophy / Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto

Local organizer



Avant Project / Centre for Philosophical Research

Main organizer of the conference series



The Institute of Philosophy and Sociology / Polish Academy of Sciences **Co-organizer**



Institute of Philosophy / Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

Co-organizer



Institute of Philosophy Nicolaus Copernicus University

co-organizer













ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

TRENDS 2019

Sofia Miguens (University of Porto) – Chair of the Organizing Committee Marcin Miłkowski (Polish Academy of Sciences) – Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Conference Series Witold Wachowski (Polish Academy of Sciences) – Conference Coordinator Krystyna Bielecka (University of Warsaw) Anna Ciaunica (University of Porto) Luca Corti (University of Porto) Aleksandra Derra (Nicolaus Copernicus University) Klara Łucznik (University of Plymouth) Przemysław Nowakowski (Polish Academy of Sciences) Michał Piekarski (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University) Filip Stawski (Avant Project/MAR) Mikołaj Raczyński (University of Warsaw) Manuela Teles (University of Porto) Georg Theiner (Villanova University) Marcin Trybulec (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University) Janusz Guzowski - Conference Website Administrator

INVITED SPEAKERS

Mieke Boon **University of Twente** Robert W. Clowes Universidade Nova de Lisboa Sabina Leonelli **University of Exeter** Uskali Mäki University of Helsinki Dafne Muntanyola-Saura Autonomous **University of Barcelona** Nico Orlandi University of California at Santa Cruz **Paul Thagard** University of Waterloo **Charles Travis University of Porto**



Mieke Boon UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE

Mieke Boon is a full professor Philosophy of Science in Practice in the Philosophy Department at the University of Twente. This department focusses on the Philosophy of Technology. Boon has a firm background in scientific research in the engineering sciences. In 1987, she received a MSc degree (cum laude) in Chemical Engineering at Twente University of Technology (UT). In 1996, she received a PhD degree (cum laude) in Biotechnology at Technical University Delft (TUD). Between 1988 and 1995, she studied Philosophy at Leiden University (RUL) with special interest in history of philosophy, ethics, and philosophy of science. Between 1996 and 2000 she coordinated a multi-disciplinary research project (NWO-STW) on technologies in bacterial sulfur removal at TUDelft.

She was involved in establishing the Kivi Afdeling Filosofie en Techniek (1988), where she chaired a working group in Ethics and Technology (1988-1992). From 1997 until 2003 she chaired the Animal Use and Care Committee of the Free University of Amsterdam (VU-DEC). In 2004, she initiated the Female Faculty Network Twente (FFNT), which she chaired until 2006. In 2006, she initiated the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP), of which she was a board member until 2016. Since 2015 she is member of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA) steering committee, and chair of the Section Theoretical Philosophy of National Dutch Research School in Philosophy (OZSW).

She is a core teacher in the master program Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society (PSTS) and in the bachelor program of the ATLAS University College Twente. She also delivers philosophy service-teaching in other educational programs at the UT, teaching "Ethics and Technology", "Professional Ethics", "Philosophy of Science", "Philosophy of Technology."

Between 2003-2008, she has been working on a personal research grant from the Dutch National Science Foundation (NWO-VIDI beurs in het kader van de Vernieuwingsimpuls) on developing a Philosophy of Science for the Engineering Sciences. Between 2012-2017 she worked on a personal research grant (NWO-Vici/Aspasi), The Context of Construction – Philosophy of Science and the Engineering Sciences. Currently, she is involved in a research project on teaching interdisciplinary engineering education (IEE) of the 4TU Centre for Engineering Education (CEE), and in an NRO project (EXChange) investigating transfer from honors to regular educational programs.

researchgate

people.utwente.nl



Robert W. Clowes UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA

Robert Clowes is the coordinator the Lisbon Mind & Reasoning Group which is part of the ArgLab at IFILNOVA.

He works on a number of themes in the philosophy of cognitive science and philosophy of mind, the philosophy of technology and consciousness research. He is especially interested in exploring the labile border between philosophy of mind and philosophy of technology.

Much of Clowes' current work focuses is the intersection of technology and mind from written language through to internet technology. He is currently working on a monograph which seeks to pull together research themes from some recently published papers, building on some recent publications about how our minds employ and relate to current internet technology (Clowes, 2012, 2013, 2014a, 2014b). The book is tentatively entitled Thinking in the Cloud.

Clowes is interested in a variety themes around situated and embodied cognition. He has developed extended mind can inform a practical understanding of the use of technologies such electronic memory and the social web.

He develops work primarily in the 4E (Extended, Embodied, Embedded and Enactive) tradition of approaches to mind. His PhD Thesis focused on these themes as related to the cognitive role of language (Clowes, 2008).

Other themes he works on include: phenomenological approaches to schizophrenia and the intersection of conceptions of social and bodily selves, how body representation relates to social ideas of self. A critique of the idea that pre-reflective self experience is necessarily minimal.

He was funded as a Post-Doctoral Researcher from FCT for the project: Virtualism and the Mind: Rethinking Presence, Representation and Self: – (SFRH/BPD/70440/2010 and is currently funded by the IFILNOVA strategic development fund.

mindandcognition.weebly.com/robert-clowes



Stephen Cowley UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

He is Professor of Organisational Cognition at the University of Southern Denmark (Slagelse Campus). Member of the Department of Language and Communication at the University of Southern Denmark. In his professional investigations he focuses on the beginnings of language, cognition and communication. He developed a concept of distributed language defined as a constitutive part of action and perception. In his empirical work he address the question of how problem solving and coordination help to balance emotions and relationships.

He writes about himself: "My father used to ask me why people talk. Reiteration of this odd question puzzled me -I was highly social. Later, however, it came to haunt me: how do ideas get off the ground? It is perhaps for this reason that, in my academic life, I have come to focus on the beginnings of language, cognition and communication. Rather than identify languaging with 'use' of cultural constructs -words or languages -I came to view these as fictions that arise from a history of coordinating. Movement and vocalization suffice to orchestrate beliefs in a cultural-physical world where people engage with each other, artifacts and institutions. As we do so, we talk: we realize values that are, at once, felt, ecological, dialogical and non-local. On this distributed view, language becomes a constitutive part of action and perception. It aids human organisms to individuate as persons whose strategies draw on the constraints of objects/events, languages, culture and the interaction order. Pursuing this, my empirical work probes human modes of life and living. I examine how problem solving and coordination serve to balance emotion, relationships, expertise and decision making. Emphasis falls on, on the one hand, prosody and, on the other, experimental studies. This allows me to connect work on puzzle completion with seeking to understand and improve health interactions. True to a focus on beginnings, I emphasise biological and biosemiotic sources of human modes of life and, inseparably, how the technologies of late modernity are changing what it is to live as part of the world."

He co-edited numerous volumes: Biosemitic. Perspectives in Language and Linguistics (2015), Signifying Bodies (2010), Cognition Beyond the Brain (2013), Distributed Language (2009), and more. He is co-founder of Distributed Language Group which recently evolved into International Society for the Study of Interactivity, Language and Cognition.

portal.findresearcher.sdu.dk/en/persons/cowley southerndenmark.academia.edu/StephenJCowley



Sabina Leonelli UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Sabina Leonelli is Professor in Philosophy and History of Science at the University of Exeter, where she co-directs the Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (Egenis) and leads the "Data Governance, Algorithms and Values" strand of the Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. Her research concerns the epistemology and governance of data-intensive science, the philosophy and history of organisms as scientific models and the role of open science in the global research landscape. She is a Turing Fellow, ERC grantee, expert in Open Science for the European Commission, Vice-President of the European Philosophy of Science Association, Editor-in-Chief of History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, and Associate Editor of the Harvard Data Science Review.

Her research spans the fields of history and philosophy of biology, science and technology studies and general philosophy of science, and currently focuses on the philosophy, history and sociology of data-intensive science, especially the research processes, scientific outputs and social embedding of Open Science, Open Data and Big Data, and the construction of semantics to enable data linkage for automated mining in the plant sciences and biomedicine and the epistemology and history of the use of organisms as research models, with a focus on experimental organisms and on the plant sciences.

socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/sociology/research/sts/egenis/staff/leonelli/



Uskali Mäki UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Uskali Mäki is a Philosophy Professor at the University of Helsinki, directing TINT - Centre for Philosophy of Social Science; and a visiting professor at Nankai University, China. In 1995-2006 he was Professor of Philosophy at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, directing EIPE [Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics]. He is a former editor of the Journal of Economic Methodology (1995-2005), and former Chair of the International Network for Economic Method. He has held visiting positions at several universities in Europe and North America, and currently sits in the editorial boards of ten journals. His research is mainly on the philosophy of economics and on models, scientific realism, interdisciplinarity, and social aspects of science.

Recent and forthcoming publications:

- Mäki, U., MacLeod, M., Merz, M., & Nagatsu, M. (2019). Investigating Interdisciplinary Practice: Methodological Challenges (Introduction). [Special issue]. Perspectives on Science: Philosophical, Historical, Sociological, 27 (4). MIT Press.
- Mäki, U. (2018). Rights and wrongs of economic modelling: Refining Rodrik. Journal of Economic Methodology.
- Mäki, Uskali; Fernández Pinto, Manuela & Walsh, Adrian (Eds.) (2018). Scientific Imperialism: Exploring the Boundaries of Interdisciplinarity. Routledge.
- Mäki, U., Walsh, A., & Fernández Pinto, M. (2018). Introduction: Core issues in scientific imperialism. In U. Mäki, M. Fernández Pinto, & A. Walsh (Eds.), Scientific Imperialism: Exploring the Boundaries of Interdisciplinarity. Routledge.
- Salmela, Mikko and Mäki, Uskali (2018). Disciplinary Emotions in Interdisciplinary Interaction. In U. Mäki, M. Fernández Pinto, & A. Walsh (Eds.), Scientific Imperialism: Exploring the Boundaries of Interdisciplinarity. Routledge.
- Mäki, Uskali (2017). Modelling Failure. In Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science - Proceedings of the 15th International Congress (Helsinki). Ilkka Niiniluoto, Päivi Seppälä, Elliott Sober (eds). College Publications, UK.

helsinki.fi/tint/maki



Dafne Muntanyola-Saura

DAFNE MUNTANYOLA-SAURA

Dafne Muntanyola-Saura is a tenured assistant professor at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She was an MA at Stockholm University and a Fulbright scholar at the department of cognitive science at University of California San Diego (UCSD). Her current research crosses over the fields of contemporary cognitive science (distributed cognition), cultural production, and visual ethnography. As a video ethnographer she analizes expert and creative teamwork in different environments, such as hospitals, dance and synchronized swimming, and has a strong interest in gender and social network analysis in the arts. She is at the Board of the Sociology of the Arts Comitee at ESA (European Sociological Association) and the president of the Spanish Comitee of Sociology of Culture and the Arts. She enjoys reviewing books for international journals and has published papers in 5 languages.

Recent publications:

• Barranco, O.; Lozares, C.; Muntanyola-Saura, D. (2019). Heterophily in social groups formation: a social network analysis. Quality & Quantity, 53(2): 599-619.

• Muntanyola-Saura, D.; Fernández, M.(2019). The Place of Religious Brokerage: A Mixedmethods Approach. Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 165: 101-120.

• Muntanyola-Saura, D.; Sánchez-García, R., (2018). Distributed Attention: A Cognitive Ethnography of Instruction in Sport Settings. Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour 48(4): 433-454.

uab.academia.edu/DafneMuntanyola



Nico Orlandi UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ

She is an Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz. Primary Areas of Research: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Epistemology.

A central theme of my research is understanding what kind of capacity perception is, what it presupposes, and what kind of relationship it affords with the environment. In my recent work, I have developed an anti-constructivist account of perception that contrasts with philosophical and psychological orthodoxy.

I now have ongoing projects concerning (a) Bayesian and Predictive Coding models of perception; (b) the notion of mental representation; (c) the notion of inference; and (d) the significance of fMRI research for understanding cognition (with a particular focus on the gender literature).

Book:

The Innocent Eye: Why Vision is not a Cognitive Process. New York: Oxford University Press, August 2014.

Main articles:

• Representing as Coordinating with Absence, in Smortchkova, J., Dolega, K., Schlicht, T.: What are mental Representations? New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

• 20th Century Theories of Perception, in the volume 'Philosophy of Mind in the 20th and 21st Centuries' (Routledge) edited by Amy Kind, 2019.

• Perception without Computation? in the Routledge Handbook of the Computational Mind, Edited by Mark Sprevak and Matteo Colombo, 2018.

• Predictive Perceptual Systems, in the special issue 'Predictive Brains and Embodied, Enactive Cognition' Synthese edited by Michael Kirchhoff, Volume 195, Issue 6, pp. 2367-2386, 2018.

norlandi.sites.ucsc.edu



Paul Thagard

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Paul Thagard is a philosopher, cognitive scientist, and author of many interdisciplinary books. He is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo, where he founded and directed the Cognitive Science Program. He is a graduate of the Universities of Saskatchewan, Cambridge, Toronto (PhD in philosophy) and Michigan (MS in computer science). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Cognitive Science Society, and the Association for Psychological Science. The Canada Council has awarded him a Molson Prize (2007) and a Killam Prize (2013). His books include: The Cognitive Science of Science: Explanation, Discovery, and Conceptual Change (MIT Press, 2012); The Brain and the Meaning of Life ((Princeton University Press, 2010); Hot Thought: Mechanisms and Applications of Emotional Cognition (MIT Press, 2006); and Mind: Introduction to Cognitive Science (MIT Press, 1996; second edition, 2005). Oxford University Press published his 3-book Treatise on Mind and Society in February 2019.

Recent and forthcoming publications:

• Cognitive science (update of 2010 article). In R. Frodemena, J. T. Klein & R. Pacheco (Eds.), The Oxford handbook of interdisciplinarity(2nd ed.) (pp. 188-200). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

• Emotional cognition in urban planning. In J. Portugali & E. Solk (Eds.), Complexity, cognition, urban planning anddesign(pp. 197-213). Berlin: Springer, 2018.

• Computational models in science and philosophy. In S. O. Hansson & V. F. Hendricks (Eds.), Introduction toformal philosophy(pp. 457-467). Berlin: Springer, 2018.

- Mind, consciousness, and free will. Frontiers of Philosophy in China, 12(3), 2018, 377-393.
- Social equality: Cognitive modeling based onemotional coherence explains attitude change. Policy Insights from Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 5(2), 2018, 247-256.

• Dammann, O., Poston, T., & Thagard, P. (forthcoming). How do medical researchers make causal inferences? In K. McCain & K. Kampourakis (Eds.), What is scientific knowledge? An introduction to contemporary epistemology of science. London: Routledge.

• How rationality is bounded by the brain. In R. Viale (Ed.), Handbook of bounded rationality. London: Routledg (forthcoming).

paulthagard.com/contact/



Charles Travis KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Charles Travis received his BA from the University of California, Berkeley in 1963, and his Ph. D. from UCLA in 1967. He has taught in the U.S., Canada, The Netherlands, and the U.K., having spent most of his career in the last three countries.

Before coming to King's, he was a professor at Northwestern University, and before that at the University of Stirling. He has taught at many other places, including visiting professorships at the University of Michigan, and at Harvard

Professor Travis works on a set of problems about thought, representation and experience, spanning parts of philosophy of perception, of psychology, of language, of logic, and epistemology. He has been most influenced by, among the recent dead, Wittgenstein and Austin; and, among the living, Hilary Putnam, John McDowell and Noam Chomsky.

Main works:

• Saying and Understanding; A Generative Theory of Illocutions, New York University Press, 1975.

• The True and the False : the Domain of the Pragmatic, J. Benjamins, Amsterdam, 1981.

• The Uses of Sense : Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Language, Oxford University Press, « Clarendon Press », Oxford, 1989.

• Unshadowed Thought: Representation in Thought and Language, Harvard University Press, 2001.

• Thought's Footing: A Themes in Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations, Oxford University Press, 2006.

kcl.ac.uk/people/charles-travis

MLAG

THE MIND, LANGUAGE AND ACTION GROUP

MLAG (Mind, Language, and Action Group) was founded by Prof. Sofia Miguens in 2005, building on the work on analytic philosophy done within GFMC (Gabinete de Filosofia Moderna e Contemporânea, Instituto de Filosofia da Universidade do Porto, founded in 1996 by Prof. Maria José Cantista).

The main goal of MLAG is to carry on research on the nature of mind, the nature of language, and the nature of action. The group works mostly in contemporary philosophy and in the analytic tradition.

The issues central to MLAG's research programme makes the group's work seek (i) a cognitive science framework, (ii) a general framework of history of 20th century philosophy, reaching to other traditions in contemporary philosophy (phenomenology, especially).

Sofia Miguens and Charles Travis are currently responsible for MLAG's research agenda.

Current agenda

In 2015-2020 the group will pursue the agenda outlined below for its 3 areas (Mind and Language; Action, Agency and Rationality and History of Contemporary philosophy):

Mind and Language

1. Mind: Former work on mind (e.g. on rationality, decision, emotion and judgement) will be brought to bear on two new topics (1) Encounters with Oneself, (2) Hallucinations. The central objective in (1) is to explore the shape of our access to the inner, seeking to assess the ways authority and estrangement combine in our 'relation' with ourselves (R. Moran, M. Boyle, S. Rödl, N. Eilan, Q. Cassam). We will also investigate the way conceptions of the first-person, self-access and self-reference (Frege, Anscombe, Perry) relate. As for (2), multidisciplinary work on hallucination will be taken as a test-case for current debates in the philosophy of perception, namely those around disjunctivism (McDowell, Travis, Fisch, Siegel).

2. Language: The main objective is to explore origins and consequences of (current brands of) contextualism (Travis, Récanati). Even if contextualism in the philosophy of language usually concerns mostly the implications of pragmatic phenomena in language for a view of semantics, we intend to go beyond technical treatments of pragmatic phenomena in language and focus on how the objectivity of thought withstands occasion-sensitivity phenomena. We will investigate the origins of contextualism in ordinary language philosophy (Wittgenstein, Austin). We will try to make the consequences of contextualism explicit for specific problems, e.g. the approach to 'abstract objects' (propositions, concepts, numbers, theories, theoretical entities, fictional entities) [for this MLAG is participating in the Santiago de Compostela Project The explanatory function of abstract objects: their nature and cognoscibility EFAO (2014-2016), FFI2013-41415-P. IRs: José Luis Falguera e Concha Martínez].

Action, Agency and Rationality

We will concentrate on the status and uses of the notion of representation in theories of mind and action, trying to spell out how anti-representationalist approaches to cognitive science (enactivism, embodied cognition, situated approaches, etc) relate to anti-representationism regarding mind and language (Travis).

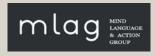
History of Contemporary Philosophy

In the framework of consciousness studies, we will investigate the relations between Sartre and contemporary philosophy of mind, again exploring the relations between analytic and non-analytic traditions (volume forthcoming, London, Routledge). We will work on a history of the approaches to the nature of logical truths from Kant to Frege, Wittgenstein and Putnam (see volume The Logical Alien At 20, forthcoming with Harvard UP).

Meta-coordination and networks

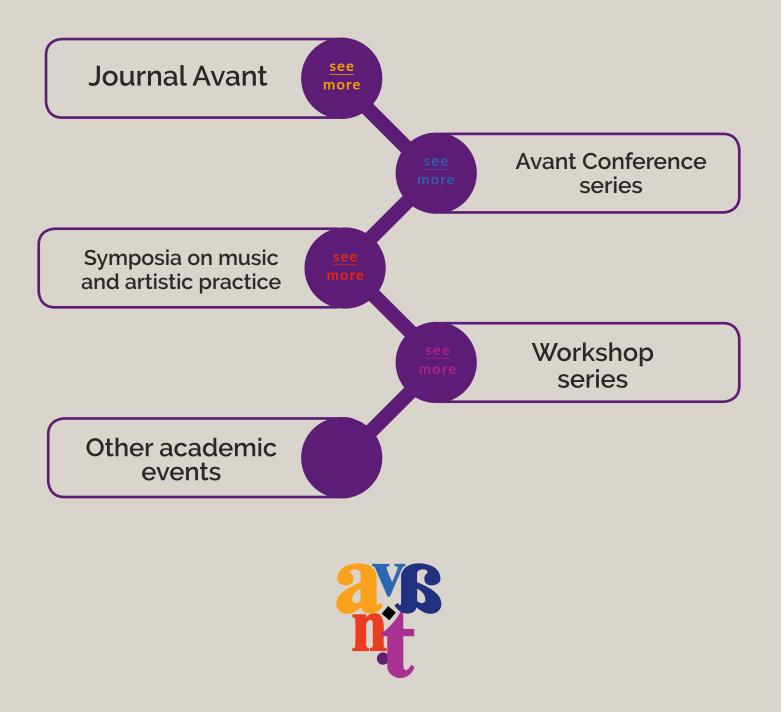
In 2015-2017, the meta-coordination of the different domains of MLAG will go on in the context of CNRS network PloCo (Philosophie du langage common /Ordinary language philosophy and ordinary conceptions in the social sciences), in which MLAG participates. Travis' work on philosophy of language, logic and perception (cf. the 3 volumes of Selected Papers – Occasion-Sensitivity (2008, Oxford, OUP), Objectivity and the Parochial (2010, Oxford, OUP) and Perception – Essays from Frege (2013, Oxford, OUP, as well as his interpretations of Frege and Wittgenstein is one main reference here. Naturally L. Wittgenstein's and J. L. Austin's works are guiding references for exploring anti-representationalism and contextualism in the theories of mind, language and action. One activity in Porto directly connected with the CNRS network is the Group of Austinian studies (Marchesan org). Also C-MLAG 2016 (june 2016) is being organized in connection with the CNRS network.





PROJECT AVANT

AVANT PROJECT is an academic platform publishing and hosting Host and publisher: Centre for Philosophical Research (Warsaw, Poland) <u>Read more</u>



Filip Stawski filip.stawski@avant.edu.pl